## CLAIMS:

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1. A resist composition comprising a polymer comprising recurring units of the following general formula (1) and having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 500,000,

wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently hydrogen, hydroxy, a straight or branched alkyl group, halogen atom or trifluoromethyl group,  $R^3$  is methyl or ethyl,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  each are an alkyl group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may bond together to form a cyclic structure.

A resist composition comprising a polymer comprising recurring units of the following general formula (2) and
 having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 500,000,

wherein  $R^2$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, a straight or branched alkyl group, halogen atom or trifluoromethyl group.

3. A resist composition comprising a polymer comprising recurring units of the following general formula (1) and recurring units of the following general formula (3) and having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 500,000,

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^1 & R^2 \\
-(CH-C)_{t} \\
O & Q & R^4 \\
CH-CH \\
O & R^5
\end{array}$$
(1)

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wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently hydrogen, hydroxy, a straight or branched alkyl group, halogen atom or trifluoromethyl group,  $R^3$  is methyl or ethyl,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  each are an alkyl group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may bond together to form a cyclic structure, t is a positive number,

wherein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are each independently hydrogen, hydroxy, a straight or branched alkyl group, halogen atom or trifluoromethyl group,  $R^8$  is an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,  $R^{12}$  is an alkyl group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms or silicon-substituted alkyl group, q, r and s are 0 or positive numbers, and p is a positive number.

A resist composition comprising a polymer comprising recurring units of the following general formula (2) and recurring units of the following general formula (3) and having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 500,000,

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wherein R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxy, a straight or branched alkyl group, halogen atom or trifluoromethyl group, and t is a positive number,

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- wherein R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are each independently hydrogen, hydroxy, a straight or branched alkyl group, halogen atom or trifluoromethyl group, R8 is an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, R12 is an alkyl group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms or silicon-substituted alkyl group, q, r and s are 0 or 15 positive numbers, and p is a positive number.
  - 5. A chemically amplified positive resist composition comprising
    - (A) an organic solvent,
    - (B) the polymer of claim 1 as a base resin, and
    - (C) a photoacid generator.

- 6. A chemically amplified positive resist composition comprising
  - (A) an organic solvent,
  - (B) the polymer of claim 1 as a base resin,
  - (C) a photoacid generator, and
  - (D) a dissolution inhibitor.
- 7. The chemically amplified positive resist composition of claim 5, further comprising (E) a basic compound.

8. A process for forming a resist pattern comprising the steps of:

applying the resist composition of claim 1 onto a substrate to form a coating,

heat treating the coating and then exposing it to high-energy radiation or electron beam through a photo mask, and

optionally heat treating the exposed coating and developing it with a developer.

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